GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4888
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
EXTENSIVE FARMING
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce extensive farming on scientific lines, so as to develop wasteland and semi-arid zones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make agriculture more export oriented and to improve the total agricultural exports from the country; and

(d) the percentage (in terms of valu

(e) of agricultural contribution in India's total export to the foreign countries, item-wise and country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b) The Government of India is implementing various schemes for thedevelopment of semi-arid rainfed areas, degraded/wastelands in the country.. Appropriate technologies suitable to the land-use classification of the various kinds of degraded/wastelands are recommended for treatment and productivity enhancement..

The schemes/programmes that are being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Department of Land Resources are:

(1) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- National Watershed Development programme in Rainfed Areas.
- Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Project/Flood Prone Rivers.
- Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas in NE Region.
- Reclamation of Alkali Soil.
- Reclamation and Development of Alkali Lands with EEC assistance.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

- Drought prone area programme.
- Desert Development programme.
- Integrated Wasteland Development programme.

(c)&(d) Policy of export of agriculture product forms an integral part of the Export-ImportPolicy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agriculture exports increasingly viable. The major agro commodities exported are pulses, rice, wheat, cereals, tobacco, spices, cashew, seasame and nigerseeds, groundnut, spirit and beverages, guargum meal, oil meal, shellac, sugar, meat and meat preparations, poultry and dairy products, floriculture products, fruit and vegetables seeds, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and vegetables etc.

The value of agro items exported including marine products tea, Coffee, castor oil, cotton for the last three years is as under:

Year	Value (000 crores)	% share to total exports

1997-98	24.6	18.93
1998-99	25.2	17.81
1999-2000 (April-December)	18.2	15.35

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

The percentage (in terms of value) of agricultural commodities in India's export to the foreign countries is as under:

Commodity Group	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Apr-Nov)
Agriculture & allied, of which	18.8	17.3	14.5
Tea	1.4	1.6	1.2
Coffee	1.3	1.2	0.8
Cereals	2.6	4.4	1.9
Unmanufactured tobacco	0.7	0.4	0.6
Spices	1.1	1.1	1.1
Cashewnuts	1.1	1.1	1.6
Oil meals	2.6	0.5	0.5
Fruits & Vegetables	0.6	0.5	0.5
Marine products	3.4	3.1	3.2
Raw cotton	0.6	0.2	0.1

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta as reproduced in Economic Survey (1999-2000)

The details of exports of agro commodities with respect to quantity and value to various countries are available in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics(DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

The Government has been implementing various measures including provision of financial assistance to boost production and export of agricultural products which include:

(i) Providiang assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstration, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits:

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment:

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/cooperative societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised; Transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses):

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units:

(v) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits:

(vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets;

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions:

(viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airport for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

(ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging transport etc.